

Husband's Name: **ALBERT JOSEPH "COUNT" MATELENA**

Born: 5 February 1896 New York, New York County, New York¹
 Married: 9 November 1922 Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland
 Died: 8 October 1981 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey
 Buried: *Saint Mary's Cemetery* Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Father: GIUSEPPA MADDALENA (18 March 1854 to 2 August 1925)
 Mother: MARIA CONCETTA SACCO (9 February 1861 to 26 September 1943)

Wife's Name: **DOROTHY RUTH SOUTHARD**

Born: 17 January 1907 Bordentown, Burlington County, New Jersey
 Died: 12 November 1960 Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey
 Buried: *Saint Mary's Cemetery* Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Father: JOHN LAWRENCE SOUTHARD (12 July 1879 to 23 October 1911)
 Mother: ELIZABETH R. PARKER (5 October 1882 to 22 January 1932)

Issue:	Born:	Where:
1) DOROTHY ELIZABETH MATELENA	18 August 1924	Trenton, Mercer County, NJ
2) MARIE ROSE MATELENA	6 April 1926	Trenton, Mercer County, NJ
3) ALBERTA JEAN MATELENA	4 February 1929	Trenton, Mercer County, NJ

They were married on the 9th of November, 1922 by the Minister D.F. LOCKERBIE in Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland. Elkton was a well-known destination for those wanting a quick wedding, with little questions asked. A great article entitled "Elkton, Marry-land" by MARSHALL S. BERDAN, appeared in *The Washington Post*, on 13 February 2002:

...during its heyday in the '20s and '30s, when the Little Wedding Chapel on East Main Street was just one of 15 private chapels and Elkton was the elopement capital of the East Coast. Today, however, the chapel, housed in its two-story, 200-year-old stone building, is the only one left. Its neighbors are all law offices and bail bondsmen.

And two hours is about all it takes to do the traditional Elkton thing. It all started in 1913 when Delaware passed mandatory matrimonial waiting and public notification laws. Meanwhile Maryland -- the "Free State" -- imposed neither waiting period nor residency requirement.

As the most northeasterly county seat in Maryland, Elkton became the roadside chapel of choice for those who chose to marry in haste from throughout the Northeast. From just over 100 marriages per year at the turn of the century, tiny Elkton was soon cranking out well over 10,000 newlyweds a year -- the vast majority from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania -- during the 1920s and '30s. It became known as "America's Gretna Green."

What Maryland did require, though, was a church service. Thus sprang into business Elkton's notorious parcel of "marrying parsons," who, for a few bucks, would gladly tie a quick knot. In those days, the train and bus stations were staked out by aggressive cabbies, who scoured arrivals for those tell-tale sheepish looks, and then pounced with offers for special "package deals."

It was a convenience that even the mighty took advantage of. Smith remembers the October evening in 1928 when her aunt rushed to the train station to pick up band leader Glenn Miller and his fiancée. Alas, despite the courthouse's 7 p.m. closing time, they were five minutes too late to get their license, and the Millers-to-be were forced to return to New York empty-fingered.

Elkton's 25-year bridal end-run came to a screeching halt in 1938 when the state's elected officials, embarrassed by the tawdry spectacle that Elkton had become, sponsored a statewide referendum mandating a 48-hour waiting period.

Though Cecil County voted overwhelmingly against it, the measure passed, and the last of Elkton's few-questions-asked hitchings took place on Dec. 7, 1938.

While most states had increased the age when marriage could be entered into without parental consent from 12 to 16, the age of consent laws of Maryland remained 12 for females and 14 for males through 1938. In addition, there was no waiting period or publication of banns required.

It is thought that DOROTHY's young age of fifteen may have figured into this decision. ALBERT's brother, JOHN and his wife JOSEPHINE accompanied them on the train trip and it is assumed, were their witnesses. For their honeymoon, ALBERT and DOROTHY continued south on a train to Miami Beach, Florida and, from there, on to Havana, Cuba, returning to Trenton after six weeks. This would be a trip that was repeated several times over the years; one which DOROTHY came to dislike as they met up with many of ALBERT's business associates who traveled with their girlfriends. The COUNT was the exception bringing his wife who knew both the wives and the girlfriends which made her terribly uncomfortable.² It is not certain that, at this early time, her dislike figured into their honeymoon trip or not.

After marrying, they first lived above the Little Gem Restaurant at 318 North Broad Street where ALBERT worked. The Little Gem faced Battle Monument Park in the same neighborhood where both ALBERT and DOROTHY lived. In 1923 ALBERT is listed as a "fruit dealer" at this address with no mention of an eatery but was back to working in the restaurant at this address in 1924.³ Records conflict about whether or not ALBERT worked for his nephew at the Little Gem or owned the place. In November 1924 ALBERT advertised the restaurant for sale or lease in the *Trenton Times*, naming himself as owner. ALBERT made a statement to the Bureau of Veteran's Affairs that he worked for his "nephew" at the restaurant but left because of the "low pay and he did not like to be confined."⁴ They rented a semidetached home at 13 Fountain Avenue, for \$45.00 a month, where they resided until May 1924. While there, they sublet the upstairs of the house to JOHN and JOSEPHINE MATELENA for \$25.00 a month. ALBERT's father claims to

have owned this property but no deed has been found to confirm this. The structure was a three-story, semi-detached home built in 1891. With his father's health deteriorating, ALBERT assumed some of the responsibilities of the family fruit market at 421 Princeton Avenue. Around May 1924, they moved in with DOROTHY's mother, ELIZABETH VANKIRK, at 1620 South Broad Street. By November 1924, they had moved back to the same building in the old neighborhood, living in the other half at 15 Fountain Avenue.⁵ This was probably a cost-saving move as a statement of ALBERT's parents made to the Veteran's Administration mentions a "board bill" of \$650.00, a high figure, after living with his mother-in-law for just six months. This Fountain Avenue address is also where ALBERT's sister JULIA and her husband SALVERIO DEFILLIPPO (SAMUEL DEFILLIPS) lived. Their daughter DOROTHY's birth announcement, published 31 August 1924, states that they were living at 318 North Broad Street at the time which places the timeframe they lived at 1620 South Broad Street in question.⁶ That same month, ALBERT wrote a letter to the Veteran's Administration in which he stated that both his wife and daughter were seriously ill and that his wife "is under doctor's care and may be so for a few weeks."⁷ Conversation with DOROTHY NABINGER confirms that as an infant she had "double pneumonia" and her mother had "a spot on her lung" so they went to the Chesterfield farm of DOROTHY's grandmother, MARY SOUTHARD where they stayed to recuperate for six months.⁸

By 1925, he started working for BEN NAPLES of the Equitable Benefit Association as an insurance agent. In October 1925 they moved to 749 Hamilton Avenue, staying there until January 1926 at least. Their first years of married life were ones of frequent moves; they had no-less than five homes: 318 North Broad Street at first; 13 Fountain Avenue, 1620 South Broad Street and 15 Fountain Avenue in 1924 and then the Hamilton Avenue address by their third wedding anniversary.



Stability took over and we find them living at 851 Spruce Street, in North Trenton's Eighth ward, between 1926 and 1937.⁹ This two-story brick building between Princeton and Brunswick Avenues was owned by PHILOMENA PACE who lived next door at 853 Spruce Street. It had been built in 1916 and was listed as a two-unit dwelling, with six rooms on the ground floor and eight on the second.¹⁰ Shortly after moving ALBERT's mother came to live with them for a short time before moving next door to live with PHILOMENA. Army records indicate 1929 was ALBERT's most successful financial year, making between \$6000.00 and \$8000.00. In 1930 he returned to work in the produce market on Brunswick Avenue and started operating a "café" there and he would continue to do so until 1934 at least.¹¹ The 1930 census lists ALBERT as the proprietor of a restaurant. At the time of the enumeration, he was paying \$37.00 a month rent for living space on the second floor of the Spruce Street home; two other couples lived in the same building: MICHAEL and ANGELINA NASILE and JOSEPH and MARY PETTIGIARO.¹²

Shortly before 1 pm on 13 January 1931 ALBERT was held up by masked bandits while putting his car in his garage and robbed of \$525.00.¹³ MICHAEL "DAYLIGHT" TRAMANTANA and CARL "PIPPY" IPPOLITO, notorious Trenton-area crime figures, were charged with the crime and pled not guilty on 7 July. According to Mercer County Prosecutor ERWIN E. MARSHALL the case was hampered by ALBERT who repudiated his

testimony and the case was dropped. However, if ALBERT thought law enforcement was wrong, and they were definitely after these two and known to bend the rules where pesky things like evidence are concerned, repudiating his testimony was called for. It's telling that he did not recant his testimony, but repudiated it – meaning that his additional testimony made it clear that the police had arrested the wrong guys.

TRAMANTANA was one of six criminals that successfully evaded the law profiled in the *Trenton Times* in December 1931.¹⁴ TRAMANTANA's alleged criminal activities included assaulting JOHN "APPLE" ANEBITE in a racketeering feud, stealing a truck full of liquor in November 1931, attacking several numbers racketeers on 5 August 1932, hijacking another truck loaded with alcohol after killing the driver in October 1932 and various other cases involving grand larceny, concealing a crime and atrocious assault. The Prosecutor attributed the lack of success in prosecuting the crimes to witnesses and victims recanting their testimony.

ALBERT advertised the opening of his Tyger Inn for Friday, the 28th of July, 1933 in local newspapers.¹⁵ Named as such, he escaped legal entanglements with the well-established Tiger Inn of nearby Princeton University which opened in 1890. How he came to own this business is not certain but, due to a new federal law in 1932, he was eligible to borrow up to one-half of the pay owed him by the government for his military service, about \$450.00. This very well could have been what he used to bank-roll the business venture. The Inn was behind a nursery, now Peterson's Landscape Nursery, at Cox's Corner near the intersection of Province Line and Lawrenceville-Princeton (Route 206) Roads. Cox's Corner straddled the



county line, a reflection of Keith's Line which once separated East Jersey from West as indicated by its' name; the Inn was on the eastern side in Princeton Township, Middlesex County while, less than a quarter-mile away, and over the Line, was Lawrence Township in Mercer County. The area was notorious for automobile accidents judging from the frequency with which they were reported in Trenton area newspapers. The Inn offered *Free Spaghetti Dinners & Dancing with FRANK WHITE'S ORCHESTRA* every evening with *No Cover Charge and No Minimum*.¹⁶ On August 2nd we find the 25-cent *Special Cold Chicken Sandwich and a Glass of Beer* with P. ALBANO as the Master of Ceremonies (M.C.) and a *Big Floor Show Featuring Those Personality Girls LORRAINE SISTERS with Plenty of Dance Music by Originalities Orchestra*.¹⁷ Two weeks later, residents were exhorted to come *For A Roaring Good Time* and hear JOE MURPHY performing with MIKE SPRANZA & His Tyger Cubs.¹⁸ LITTLE JOE SPECTOR took over as M.C. by October 30th with a *New Floor Show Featuring Lona Oh Lona* with music by local orchestra leader PAUL REIMAN and a dinner special of *Deviled Crab Platter*.¹⁹ Both SPECTOR and MURPHY were well-known from Trenton's radio station, WOAX, where the former was "*The Singing Troubadour*" and the latter was "*Trenton's baritone*."²⁰

SPECTOR was known for being the Marathon Entertainer when he kept the dancer's moving during a 500+ hour marathon at Woodlawn Park in May 1932.²¹ The November 8th ad stated *A Real Peppy Band; Large Dance Floor, Good Food [and] Plenty of Entertainment with a 25-cent Hot Platter and a Beer.*²² No proprietor is named after July 1933 which makes it difficult to know for certain how long ALBERT was involved. Perhaps the remoteness of the location wasn't ideal for business, assuming that business was dinner and dancing, as the last ad in the *Trenton Times* for the Tyger Inn was on November 11th and it does not appear that another dance hall opened here.²³ When Court Recorder BOSCARRELLI gave the Count a sharp warning and ordered him to pay \$2.00 in court costs for failing to give the right of way to fire apparatus in December 1933, it doesn't seem he was in a hurry to get to the Tyger Inn!²⁴

Columbus Elementary School beckoned before too long. At the time the school was at 643 Indiana Avenue on the southwest corner at Olden Avenue. The school moved to 1200 Brunswick Avenue at Mulberry Street and the old building was sold to Saint Hedwig's Roman Catholic Church and became that institution's parochial school. DOROTHY started kindergarten at Columbus in 1929, MARIE in 1931 and ALBERTA in 1934. During the Depression years, daughter MARIE remembers her mother taking in laundry to help make ends meet. She recalls large oblong basins on the stove-top and her mother stirring the clothes and soap with large wooden paddles.²⁵ DOROTHY MATELENA appears in the summer 1933 Bell Telephone Directory at 851 Spruce Street with the telephone number TR3-1603.²⁶ ALBERT was later employed as an insurance salesman for Colonial Insurance. According to his daughters DOROTHY and MARIE he ran a produce market near the intersection of Lawrence Road (Route 206) and Franklin Corner Road in Lawrenceville for a short time.²⁷

It was during this period that the Delaware and Raritan Canal was closed to commercial traffic (1932), filled in, paved over and became the Trenton Freeway, commonly called Route 1, in 1936. The Canal Feeder, going right through downtown, remained intact, though neglected until recent years. New Jersey Transit's River Line follows the canal that we used to walk along behind White City Lake to Bordentown and beyond.

As mentioned, the owner of 851 Spruce Street was PHILOMENA PACE who lived next door. On 28 June 1937 the Home Owner's Loan Corporation sued *FILOMENA PAGE*



to foreclose a mortgage on the property. Being a tenant, ALBERT is listed as one of the defendants along with ANGELINE and MICHAEL NASILE, JOSEPHINE and JOSEPH BOSSO, HENRY J. KOHLER, and the State of New Jersey.²⁸ They moved to 22 Cavell Avenue, between Brunswick and Princeton Avenues in the old neighborhood, in August of 1937, perhaps as a result of the foreclosure.²⁹ This two-story frame house was built in 1924 (pictured left).³⁰ The 16 homes on Cavell were a semi-detached Dutch Colonial design, each with a stained-glass window in the front room. Separated from the front room by a wide archway was the dining room which ended at the staircase to the second floor. Beyond this was the kitchen which opened on to the backyard. Three bedrooms and the

bathroom with a pedestal sink and claw-foot bath tub constituted the second floor. The middle bedroom held the doorway of the entrance to the third floor attic.³¹ The 6-room house was listed for sale for \$3,750 in May 1937.³² In 1938 he is listed as a huckster in the city directory.³³ His application for a social security number, dated 5 May 1939, states he was employed by Sunkist Market at 1675 Princeton Avenue at Vermont Avenue, between Spruce Street and Lanning Avenue, since April 1939.³⁴

In 1936, their daughter DOROTHY, entered 7th grade at Trenton Junior High School Number 1 (opened 1916) on the northeast corner of Princeton Avenue and Southard Street; the move to Cavell Street did not require a change of schools. It isn't clear which elementary school ALBERTA, entering 3rd grade in 1937, and MARIE, entering 6th grade, would go to – there were two nearby schools: the closest was the ten room addition to Junior 5 at 440 North Montgomery Street and Holland Avenue built in the "late 1930s." This school, Lincoln Elementary, was across Brunswick Avenue from their home so it may not have covered their student district and it was a "colored" school as was Junior 5, aka "New Lincoln School." Most likely they went to Jefferson Elementary School at 411 Brunswick Avenue at the northwest corner with Southard Street; though it was slightly farther away, it did not require the girls to cross busy Brunswick Avenue to get to class. Jefferson opened in 1873 and was first located at the long-gone intersection of Southard and Jefferson Streets; in 1905 a second Jefferson opened a few blocks west on Southard at Brunswick Avenue; it and was enlarged in 1923; it was rebuilt in the 1990s and renamed the Martin Luther King, Jr. School. Two other schools in the immediate area were too far to serve Cavell Avenue students: Monument at 145 Pennington Avenue (the second of three bearing this name opened in 1932 at Calhoun Street) and the Joseph Wood School (opened 1844, new building 1850, remodeled 1891 and now Trenton Public Library) on Academy Street which ALBERT's younger brother JOHN attended (off North Broad Street above State Street; Livingston Elementary, formerly the Rose Street School on Middle Rose Street opened in 1870, just two blocks away, would have been the closest of all except for the fact it was closed in 1932 and it was a "colored" school); the fact that the family was in Junior 1's district, despite Junior 5 being closer, favors Jefferson which was near Junior 1 over the "colored" Lincoln which was part of Junior 5. MARIE entered 7th grade at Junior 1 in 1938 and ALBERTA followed in 1941. The original Junior 1 building was standing, though vacant, in 2011. In September 1939 Dorothy started High School at the second building at Hamilton and Chestnut Avenues.

In addition to his legitimate business, ALBERT was also involved in "running numbers" and, as story goes, had an incinerator in the basement to burn any evidence in the event of a police raid, a not-too-infrequent occurrence.³⁵ Another family story concerning the Count involves him being a gambler: "At Pete's Steakhouse, he took bets on horses and anything people would bet."³⁶ While these two anecdotes show

CAVELL AVENUE

Cavell Avenue recalls the name of Edith Cavell, the English war nurse who was executed by the Germans in October, 1915, on the charge of aiding in the escape of British prisoners. Cavell Street was opened and developed by Samuel Hilton.

Source: "HOW STREETS OF TRENTON OBTAINED PRESENT NAMES" from the Vertical Files of the *Trentoniana Collection* at the Trenton Public Library; their source is given as the State Gazette, Sept. 1933 - Jan. 1934 <http://trentonhistory.org>

ALBERT as a small time operator in some betting schemes, in truth he was much more.³⁷

Trenton's tough saloon rules – music and floor shows had to end by 9:30 pm (except Saturday) while all bars and saloons had to close by 11:00 pm every day while “Blue Laws” kept everything closed on Sundays – promoted the formation of private social clubs wherein serious gambling, card playing and drinking was the rule. One of the best-known was the *Peerless Club* on Hudson Street (then called Jenny Street) between Genesee Street and South Clinton Avenue, in the shadow of the John A. Roebling & Sons factory buildings. Operated by New York's “ENGLISH TOMMY” for a 5% cut, the craps tables alone accommodated up to 50 players. After only a run of a few years, ENGLISH TOMMY was able to leave town with more than \$200,000.00 in earnings which translates into a profit of \$4 million for the clubs owners over the same period – small wonder that such an endeavor was appealing to young entrepreneurs such as Grandpop! Other such establishments that ALBERT was undoubtedly familiar with as they were in the Battle Monument area were the *Maple Club* at 302 Brunswick Avenue and the *Five Points Social Club* at 108 North Brunswick Avenue.

While the city boasted 97 churches in 1910, its saloons numbered two more than three times that number at 293! The restrictive laws, designed to limit the bars, in fact served to increase their number. The working man could only go out for a couple hours and had to be close to a bar. But with their Sundays free, they were not as rushed to get to church and this enforced-relaxation was reflected in the lower number and greater size of the area churches in comparison to the local watering-holes.

Gambling wasn't limited to the private clubs though – several local horse-trotting tracks held their own. There were two in Ewing: the Ewing Track was behind the Cross Keys Tavern at Ewingville and Pennington Roads while the Trenton Driving Park, a half-mile oval track, opened in 1892 on Scotch Road, probably at Parkway Avenue though the source consulted says both were on Pennington Road which is unlikely as Scotch Road does not intersect with Pennington Road. Others included the Interstate Fair Horse Races which opened on Nottingham Way in 1888 drawing crowds as large as 100,000. The Eagle Racetrack was a fourth such venue and it adjoined the Eagle Tavern at South Broad and Ferry Streets. While the Interstate, later State, Fairgrounds racetrack was in operation when the Count was, it is not yet known if the others were. Betting on the races did not necessarily involve horses either – foot races were regularly announced in area newspapers – and as the 19th century drew to a close, bicycle races grew in popularity. The dawn of the 20th century saw the advent of another race to bet on – auto races were added to the annual offerings of the Interstate Fair while Trenton's Mercer Automobile held try-outs, a euphemism for race, on their dirt track in Hamilton Township. And these are only those racing events in Trenton and the immediate vicinity – let us not forget the New Egypt Speedway, the Freehold Racetrack and the many others, both near and far, that made for a betting populace on any given day which provided for a relatively steady income for those willing to take the risk to satisfy the demand.

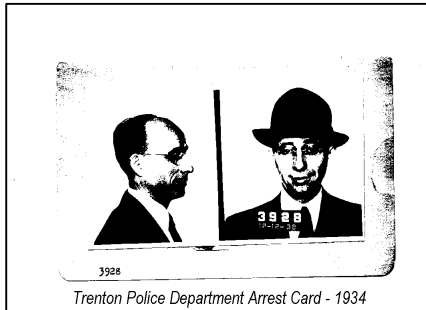
Team sports flourished which allowed for many bets to be waged – baseball, soccer, football and basketball vied with the canoe club races for a piece of the betting action available to all Trentonians. Betting on the hometown team meant the Trenton Atlantics baseball team during the roaring 1920s though very little information is available on this team. (Between 1907 and 1914 the city was represented by the

Trenton Tigers minor league baseball team.) The American Basketball League was represented by the Royal (Trenton) Bengals in the late-1920s, the Trenton Moose briefly in the mid-1930s (at which time the Trenton Bengals was based in the Bronx) while the Trenton Tigers played from 1941 until 1950. The Atlantics, a victim of the stock market crash of 1929, was followed by the Trenton Senators in the late-1930s and, in the postwar economic boon, by the Trenton Packers in the early-1940s, the Trenton Spartans in 1945 and the Trenton Giants (of which Willie Mays was the most famous team member) in the late 1940s & '50s which fell by the wayside as Trenton's downward economic spiral that began in the early 1950s accelerated through the 1960s. (As government got bigger, so did their buildings, with the loss of property tax revenue to the city being one of the major causes of the city's downfall during these decades. As property tax levels increased to make up for the loss due to government construction, the industries that were stung the most looked at their antiquated factories, mostly in undesirable neighborhoods and, with good reason, pulled up stakes and moved elsewhere) As a sequel, though the days of the Count are long gone, betting for (or against) Trenton's baseball team rose in the 1990s like the proverbial phoenix, this incarnation bearing the name Trenton Thunder, a Double-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, which is continuing strong as we enter the second decade of the 21st century as the American Minor League Baseball champions in 2007, 2008 and 2013. The Trenton Devils/Titans minor league hockey team ceased operation in 2013 while indoor football suffering through two dismal seasons: Trenton Lightning in 2001 and Trenton Steel in 2011.

In post-WWI Trenton, gambling had become big business. Trenton was associated with the Philadelphia family either directly or indirectly through that family's relationship with the Newark family. The Newark family was run by GASPARE D'AMICO until 1937 but it is not known if the Count had any face-to-face dealings with D'AMICO. There were several large operators in Trenton and, according to then Police Chief CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. DOOLING, ALBERT was the "kingpin" of Trenton's illegal gambling establishment. Local folklore relate the WW II era story of a meeting between city officials and "powerful gangland leaders" whereby it was agreed that gambling establishments would be allowed to thrive as long as prostitution was restricted to operating from private houses in a "a few downtown blocks." This was the apparent solution to the possible spread of gambling and prostitution caused by the influx of servicemen from nearby Fort Dix envisioned by city leaders that would threaten the family-oriented downtown.

After returning from fighting in France, ALBERT found little to his liking in Trenton in the way of careers. He liked the latest fashions and the biggest cars and he was not about to be able to afford that on a barber's salary, nor an insurance agent's, as far as he was concerned. Besides, neither was "flashy" which seemed to draw the Count like a magnet. It can be surmised that ALBERT continued his betting activities that apparently started on board ship while he was in the Army, but may have started earlier. Through the 1920s he must have built himself a reputation as a fair bookie, one with class no less. By the early 1930s, perhaps earlier, he expanded into horse race betting. While horse race tracks were not illegal in the State, betting on the races was illegal. 'Gratuity' payments were sometimes made at a small café called Hubby Cooper's behind the Moose Auditorium located where East State Street intersected with Canal Street near

the old Armory.³⁸ Strictly speaking, a bookmaker would calculate the odds of a horse winning and only take bets on horses that were not favored to win. In practice, bookies used odd sheets prepared by others, some by professionals and others not. Using an odds sheet from a disreputable source could cost the bookie plenty.



ALBERT's first brush with the law involving gambling came when he was arrested on 1st of May 1934. He was charged with operating a horse race track pool/ maintaining a disorderly house. Patrolmen W[illiam L] MEYER (patrolman since 1927) and M[ichael] O'BRIEN (patrolman since 1924) raided a second-floor apartment on North Warren Street where they seized "a number of charts and other paraphernalia used in book-making."³⁹ Three material witnesses were also arrested: CHARLES MCCABE of Hamilton Square, JOHN J. FRANCKOWIAK of Home Avenue and JOSEPH VINCE of Princeton Avenue; all three were released from custody on their own recognizance. ALBERT entered a "not guilty" plea in Police Court the following day was released on \$1000.00 bail (\$500.00 according to the *Trenton Times*) and waited in limbo for four years before the Grand Jury dismissed the charges on 12 June 1938.⁴⁰ This dismissal could have been due to WILLIAM P. WALTER, Trenton's Chief-of-Police since 1 September 1925; he had a penchant for accepting bribes for which he was convicted in 1935. The dismissal could have been a function of the new Police Chief, CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. DOOLING's war on gambling. The address given in the newspaper is 302 North Warren Street but this would place the building *in* Battle Monument Park, it was reported wrong; the nearest even-numbered building, then and now, is 264. A likely possibility is 232 North Warren Street where ALBERT's brother FRANK lived with his wife. FRANK would be implicated in some future gambling problems involving ALBERT.



ALBERT had help in keeping under the radar and one step ahead of the law – he had an 'in' with law enforcement. His wife's sister MARION was married to DANNY NAPLES and DANNY had a brother, FRANK, who was conveniently placed as a detective for the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office.⁴¹ After the North Warren Street location, ALBERT opened his next one on Lanning Avenue, just south of Brunswick Circle. This was just outside Trenton city limits in Lawrence Township which may have affected his choice of location. It was also convenient, being only a few blocks from his Spruce Street home; he had a telephone installed with an unlisted number under the name "MR. H.A. MATELENA." This phone will surface again.

Coinciding with the move to Cavell Avenue in August 1937, ALBERT opened his next location, the *Gem Social Club*, at 17 East Front Street in downtown Trenton during that same summer. Around this time, STEFANO "STEVE" BADAMI had taken over as head

of the New Jersey family and, under the direction of New York mobster MEYER LANSKY, small gambling joints evolved into large, and sometimes swanky, gambling parlors in the 1930s. The *Gem* was located on the second floor of a commercial building between South Broad and South Montgomery Streets and one wonders if the choice of the name was connected with the *Little Gem* restaurant of years earlier. The building was built in 1925 and measured one hundred feet on the street side and was twenty-five feet deep. It was owned by the Trenton Mortgage Service Company. The second floor location was the site of a spectacular gunpoint robbery in 1929. Sixty patrons at JOHN "CURLEY" McCUE's gambling club were held up by pistol-brandishing Italian bandits at 1 am on the 6th of January, 1929. Collecting \$2,600 from the victims, McCUE held everyone in the club for almost an hour; the police weren't tipped off until 3 am by a victim. A Grand Jury investigation into the matter revealed widespread *payola* to the Trenton police and McCUE pleading no contest to charges of running a disorderly house.⁴² Following this the second floor space was leased by the London Raincoat Manufacturing Company in April 1930 and later became the site of *Democratic Club Room*. It was occupied by the *Moore Social Club* until the Count took it over. Photographs taken by the city's tax department a few years earlier show a business name, illegible, but possibly the London Raincoat Company, on the front window. By the time of the *Gem Social Club*, the windows were covered by drapes that were closed permanently. Unknown to the passerby, behind the drapes was a wall of wood, which was braced with iron rods crossing the window. Likewise, the back door was similarly blocked. Patrons entered on Front Street, went up the stairs up to a landing and were met with a door of steel. This door had a small sliding plate behind which the doorman sat and, with the correct password given, the patron passed through the first door. Behind this was a second steel door that was braced shut and between the two the patron would be scrutinized more. Once through the second metal door, the ambience was relaxed, as it was hoped his wallet would be, by a third door of wood. Upon entering the *Social Club* you were greeted with a half dozen small tables which had groups of men gathered playing cards and checkers. At one end of the room a small office was fashioned by a partition where the Count could usually be found, often in the company of his *Lieutenant*, RAYMOND S. MARKS. In this office could be found at least one, perhaps more, telephone receivers that were hooked into a loud speaker system. These transmitted the official "calling" of horse races over loud speakers to the patrons. Races were broadcast from three tracks: New Orleans *Fair Grounds* (the second oldest such venue in the country, after Freehold Raceway in New Jersey), the *Santa Anita Racetrack* in Arcadia, a suburb of Los Angeles (closed in 1909, reopened in 1934) and the *Charles Town Races* in Charleston, West Virginia which had opened in 1933. Horse race tracks across the country dwindled in number through the first three decades of the 20th century and Prohibition had a deleterious effect on those that remained. With the impending end of Prohibition in 1933, owners of the shuttered horse race venues dusted them off and reopened while new tracks were built across the country in the first years of the 1930s. ALBERT's name appears as a buyer of *Atwater Kent* and *Radiola* radios and speakers in a sales ad for *Joe's Tire Shop* at the end of 1927. Of Joe's four "naborhood" stores, ALBERT probably went to the one that was close to the Battle Monument; perhaps it was some of this equipment that was seized during the 1937 raid. The early date of purchase hints at ALBERT being involved in race track betting well before 1933. Bets would be made up

until post time and the bettors would listen for their race results and get paid their winnings by, or more often, lose their bets to, the Count. On the wall next to the 'office' was a race result bulletin board. He would have purchased a news wire subscription that was the recipient of the telegraphed race results by observers at the tracks he was interested in taking bets on. There was also a way for bookies to distribute the risks involved in making book throughout the country by placing or transferring bets to distant bookies through the news wire but whether or not he used this to lessen the odds of his operation sustaining big losses is not known. He undoubtedly spread out his risk but just how he did it isn't clear. He also was known to take bets on local sporting events like Trenton High School basketball and football games. Another item in the Count's office was a large clay pot with two vials of liquid, which we will return to later.

The Count's Lieutenant, RAY MARKS, was well-known to police by 1937. In early 1933 the then twenty-one year old MARKS pled guilty to possessing lottery slips.⁴³ His wife, also in the numbers racket, testified during a major graft trial involving the police department. Trenton Police CHIEF WILLIAM P. WALTER, SERGEANT WILLIAM J. MARREN and PATROLMAN GEORGE J. BRUNN were charged with accepting bribes in exchange for allowing certain gambling clubs to operate unmolested and indicted for malfeasance of office. HARRY "MUGSY" REDNOR ran the REDNOR-TOMES-PELLETIERE numbers syndicate out of the basement of the REDNOR home at 255 Euclid Avenue (a block away from where the MATELENA family moved in 1942) and was the star witness for the prosecution in the graft case. Mention of a hold-up at a craps game near Lawrenceville planned by REDNOR surfaced.⁴⁴ An unproven story about ALBERT has him running a gambling 'cabin' in the woods near Eggert Crossing Road, just off of the Trenton to Princeton trolley line. Also called the Johnson Trolley and the Fast Line, there was a stop where it crossed Eggert Crossing Road; now the right-of-way in Lawrence Township is a walking path. The Fast Line stopped running in the 1930s as did all of Trenton's trolleys. "I recall being told that the sheriff raided the cabin and shot a shoe-heel off of a certain grandfather a-fleeing through a corn-field. I also recall how the crap table was battery-magnetized to attract the loaded dice to the desired positions."⁴⁵ Perhaps it was the Count's craps game that REDNOR robbed.

By the mid-1930s, the Trenton Police Department, under the direction of CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. DOOLING who had replaced WALTER after the 1935 graft trial, broke free from the usual bribery by the gambling establishments that allowed them to thrive and flourish. Intent on ridding the city of these establishments, the new CAPTAIN of the Police Department embarked on an aggressive war against gambling by 1933. Within a few years almost all were closed however the Count continued to operate and even grew larger as the competition dwindled. CAPTAIN DOOLING had repeatedly threatened the Count with action but could find no grounds for a search warrant. He had the Count watched for over five years and tried in vain to catch him. In the spring of 1938, the charges of 1934 were dropped and new charges of operating a gambling establishment were filed against the Count but nothing could come of them without a witness.

This life style was hard on family life as well. Though the gambling establishments were away from home, the house was watched to see who was in contact with ALBERT. Their daughters were not allowed to have friends over, the drapes were always closed and it was if a shroud of secrecy enveloped the family at all times.

One of the visitors to the *Gem Social Club* in the fall of 1937 was one MORRIS

CHANEY. He was allegedly from Los Angeles and was in New Jersey to sell cameras. He had traveled earlier through Columbus, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois. Staying at a mid-city hotel in October, he had heard of the *Gem Social Club* but was unsuccessful at gaining entry. He made contact with "VINCENT THE TAILOR" who vouched for him to the Count, he gained entrance to the *Club* on November 5th. There he became a regular, placing bets, one time winning \$50.00. By December, MORRIS' luck had changed and when his hotel asked him to pay his bill, he couldn't. He was arrested by the police and, when questioned on December 9th, revealed that he lost his money betting at the *Gem Social Club*. This was the "smoking gun" the police needed.

Shortly after 5:00 PM on Saturday, December 10th, under the direction of CHIEF DOOLING and CAPTAIN EDWARD J. BARRY, the *Gem* was raided. *Three police cars drove up in front of the club's headquarters, on the second floor at 17 East Front Street, and discharged 15 officers armed with sledge hammers and crowbars.* They split into two groups, one headed around back, battering down the rear door, while the larger group attacked the heavily guarded front doors. Once inside they found 21 men sitting around tables and the Count and MARKS in the office stirring what remained of betting forms in the clay pot into which two vials of acid had been poured. The Count and his *lieutenant* were arrested and the 21 others loaded into paddy wagons and taken to police headquarters as material witnesses. They were released on \$3000.00 bail, put up by ARMANDO AGABITI, *an official of the Italian-American Sportsmen Club*. The other 21 were released on their own recognizance. One of these 21 was the Count's brother FRANK MATELENA.

On Monday the 12th, they were represented in Police Court by JOSEPH J. FELCONE. They were supposedly charged with bookmaking, pool selling and operating a gambling resort; the actual filing has not been located. If convicted, a mandatory one to five year sentence plus a fine could have been expected. That afternoon the Grand Jury met and handed down indictments for much lighter charges - operating a disorderly house and aiding and abetting the maintaining of a disorderly house, both misdemeanors. What happened on Monday afternoon is unknown but, given the newspaper accounts, it seems highly possible that the Count considered fleeing south: *Gambling Raid Victims, Reported 'Out of Town,' Must Face Court Friday* headlined page one of the *Trenton Evening Times* of 13 December. Their attorney stated that *It is only natural they might be away for a brief vacation ...* Prosecutor ANDREW J. DUCH stated "These men have been given a fair warning for over a year and a half to cease their activities, but they brazenly and defiantly flaunted the authorities."

Acting extremely quickly, ALBERT and RAY were arraigned on Tuesday, a hearing which they missed. *Trenton's Reputed Gambling Kingpin and Aide Indicted* was the front page headline of the *Trenton State Gazette* of December 13th. They were ordered to appear in Court on Friday to enter a plea. Meanwhile, WILLIAM F. SMITH, assistant United States attorney hinted at opening a tax evasion probe. Trial was set for Tuesday, December 20th. They hired WALTER D. COUGLE to work with FELCONE on their defense. They entered "not guilty" pleas on Friday. The attorneys filed for an adjournment based on the unusual speed with which the Court was proceeding and a physician's statement, which said that ALBERT's health was poor. The request was denied. Their defense team contemplated applying to the New Jersey Supreme Court for a writ of review. On Monday the 19th, JUDGE JAMES S. TURP granted a four-week delay due to the

precarious health of Mr. COUGLE's mother.

On Monday, 16 January 1938, Court convened and Mr. COUGLE entered a motion to quash the indictment, which was rejected. Fourteen people were selected for the jury and a *mass of evidence* was brought into the courtroom. The evidence included

alleged betting slips, pay-off pads, several large steel plates ..., two large reinforced doors with 'peephole' slots which show evidence of having been freely battered by raiders' axes. The paraphernalia, ..., also includes several iron pipe railing, two telephones with the ends of wires showing evidence of having been cut and several large roped bundles of 'Racing Form' a publication devoted to horse race news. Preparations were also made to string a wire through the courtroom for a demonstration hookup of a loudspeaker system nabbed in the raid over which ... the results of races at various tracks were announced ...

The trial started in the afternoon to a packed courtroom. The prosecution brought MAURICE CHANEY to the stand who testified to his relationship with the *Gem Social Club*. The defense countered that this was a true social club *where some of the boys drop in after going to the movies or bingo*. COUGLE also questioned the necessity of bringing in a stranger from California as a witness because the prosecution maintained that the *Club was a great nuisance to all the citizens of New Jersey*. Where were the local citizens who were subject to this nuisance on a daily basis he queried the jury? On Tuesday CHANEY testified he had placed bets on races at horse tracks in New Orleans, California and Charleston. A manager of Bell Telephone's Trenton office testified that two telephones were installed under the name *MR. H.A. MATELENA* at a Lanning Avenue address. The phones were transferred to 17 East Front Street in March 1938.

On Wednesday, the Count and RAY pleaded no contest to charges of operating a disorderly house after a lengthy conference with their counsel. ... *thus the last of the major bookmakers who survived the crusade against horse race gambling faded out without a fight* reported the *Trenton Evening Times* of January 18th. The maximum penalty that could be imposed was 3 years imprisonment and/or \$1000.00 fine. Sentencing was set for Friday, January 27th. On that date they were fined \$900.00 plus \$101.29 in court costs each and suspended Workhouse sentences of 15 months each. Paid, once again, by ARMANDO AGABITI, the pair were released with the warning that *the least bit of trouble from either of you the Workhouse sentence will go into effect*. Oddly, the *Trenton State Gazette* of January 28th reported that the Count could not raise the money and was jailed while the *Trenton Evening Times* of January 27th reported that AGABITI paid the fines. Which account is true is not known but the Count's arrest record says he was committed until paid. On 24 February 1939, JUDGE TURP reconsidered his sentence under appeal and revised it to a \$450.00 fine and 3 years probation.⁴⁶

HARRY H. MORGAN, the camera-salesman-turned-stool-pigeon who called himself MAURICE CHANEY, suddenly had his outstanding hotel bill of \$114.69 paid the day after MATELENA and MARKS pled guilty. Also known by the alias ALBERT BLAKE, he was released on his own recognizance; perhaps tellingly, there is no mention about where the money came from but that it was paid by someone other than CHANEY is clear. He is credited with wrecking *Trenton's last major horse race bookmaking establishment*.⁴⁷

What happened to the family during this period is not known. DOROTHY and the daughters may have been sent away to avoid the publicity or they may have been well aware of it and still reticent to talk about it years later. Besides these documented occurrences, one gathers similar, if not documented, ones as well. One recounts going with a friend to a small bar named Hubby's *on the corner behind Moose Hall off East State Street* at 16 Canal Street where his friend sat next to a *well-dressed man* already at the bar. The man introduced a companion of his. The two exchanged paper bags, one containing the tickets needed for betting, the other had cash. When the Count caught wind of this, he became quite upset as the man's *companion* was a known hit man.⁴⁸ There are two separate enumerations in the 1940 Federal Census, one for ALBERT and DOROTHY and the other for his 77-year-old mother MARY and their 3 daughters. The census states the monthly rent for the house was \$37.50; ALBERT is a *producer* for a fruit and produce company, having made \$896.00 in salary plus more than \$50.00 in non-salaried income.⁴⁹ In the first half of 1942 ALBERT had to register for the World War II Draft; on his card he stated that he was self-employed and ran a fruit and produce company from his home at 22 Cavell Avenue.⁵⁰ A young girl named GAIL WOODS lived at 30 Cavell and she recalls ALBERT and DOROTHY doting on her and ALBERT leaving small boxes of candy for her on occasion. She also remembers that ALBERT was operating a taxicab service at this time.⁵¹

They moved a block away from Trenton Central High School, 500 Chambers Street between Hamilton and Greenwood Avenues, in the summer of 1942 just after DOROTHY graduated. On 19 August 1942 they purchased a house at 328 Euclid Avenue in Trenton from REUNEY D. and ORA V. PETTY.⁵² This property remained mortgaged for many years, the first mortgage was for \$4250.00 plus 5% per annum interest. On 3 January 1949 a \$5000.00 mortgage from 440 East State Street, Incorporated was used to pay off the first mortgage; a subsequent \$5500.00 mortgage from Howard Savings Institute on 30 October 1953 paid off the second mortgage. On 1 February 1955 ALBERT obtained a fourth mortgage of \$8000.00 from Roma Savings and Loan and paid off the third mortgage from Howard Savings. This last mortgage was not paid until the house was sold. On 5 August 1955, STANLEY MCDOWELL gave a mortgage of \$3000.00 which was extended on 4 October 1957 by an additional mortgage of \$5000.00 from STANLEY.⁵³ With this move, ALBERTA, now entering 8th grade, would have changed to the recently built (1940) and reopened (1942) Junior 2 at Cuyler and Gladstone Avenues, three blocks behind the Chambers Street High School (in 1926 Junior 2 on Tyler Street since 1917, was divided between the 2nd High School next door at Hamilton and Chestnut Avenues and an elementary school in 1926; this change resulted in a seemingly odd situation: between 1926 and 1942 Trenton had four Junior High Schools numbered 1, 3, 4 and 5 – no number 2!); MARIE had started Trenton Central High School in 1941 and ALBERTA would follow in 1944.

In February 1947, there appears in the New Jersey Court records, a lawsuit regarding the termination of telephone service on the 7th of the month at ALBERT's home as it was *being used for illegal purposes, namely, 'bookmaking'*. Her affidavit states that the action was *based upon mere suspicion only that her father, ALBERT MATELENA, with whom she resides, had been using the facilities for the purpose of making book on horse races*.⁵⁴ A letter, dated 6 February 1947, from the Trenton Police Department to NJ Bell Telephone, contains a list of known bookmakers, their locations, and their

telephone numbers. ALBERT MATELENA, of 328 Euclid Avenue is found on the list as is DANNY NAPLES at 24 Merchant Street and GEORGE NAPLES in the *rear of the Imperial Club* at Mott and Whittaker Streets. Worthy of note is 19 South Warren Street, the *cigar store* the ALBERT'S mother MARY ran in the 1930s, now run by PETER PETERINO. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for 11 March by Vice Chancellor WILFRED H. JAYNE at the State House Annex after DOROTHY testified that the telephone registration was changed from her father's name to hers in May 1946 after she became a registered nurse. Phone service was still off two months later when the Public Utilities Commission requested briefs to be filed within seven days of a hearing in Newark on 2 April 1947.⁵⁵ Since February it had come to light that a dozen calls were made for the correct time between 12 and 1 pm from the 19th of December to the 23rd of January. A.J. BITTIG, counsel for the telephone company, testified that *experienced gamblers use this hour to synchronize their watches with standard time so they would not lose out* by paying for bets placed after the race was over. DOROTHY testified before JOHN E. BOSWELL, president of the utility board, that her father had not worked *for three years because of a nervous breakdown*. Further, she placed the change of telephone service earlier, on 21 December 1945. The outcome of this case is not known.

In March 1947 *the Count* was again the victim of a crime when he was *slugged and robbed* according to a newspaper account. He was chased for a block before falling at Hampton Street near Walnut Avenue after attending the Trenton Tigers versus Philadelphia SPHAs (South Philadelphia Hebrew Association) basketball game at the Arena. He lost his wristwatch and \$12.⁵⁶ 1947 was the Trenton team's only championship year. In the 1950 city directory DOROTHY and ALBERT are listed with their daughter DOROTHY as a nurse.⁵⁷ This information was probably obtained before their daughter married JOHN NABINGER in October 1949. On 15 January 1952 ALBERT again applied for a social security number. This application states he was unemployed and uses the name JOSEPH ALBERT MATELENA.⁵⁸ In April of 1952, ALBERT applied for, and received, a taxi license in Hamilton Township.⁵⁹ He appears to have had an associate in this venture that also had a history of being involved in the numbers racket.⁶⁰ He put brick siding on the Euclid Avenue house in 1952.⁶¹

The Count maintained his connection to, and probably participated in, the underground gambling scene in the Trenton area. On 1 November 1952, three indictments were delivered by a Grand Jury in New Jersey Superior Court. The indictments were for bookmaking, operating a bookmaking establishment, and operating a horse race betting establishment, all in Hamilton Township; each a violation of section 2A: 112 and 113 of New Jersey Statutes. Once indicted, an investigation was opened.⁶²

In April 1953, Hamilton Township Police CHIEF THOMAS SIMPSON ordered surveillance of a few *bookie joints* operating in the area; the rackets were still under the control of STEFANO BADAMI until his murder in 1955. On May 19th he ordered a raid on the *Greenwood Grill*, at Greenwood and Johnston Avenues; the *Paddock Café* at East State Street and Nottingham Way; and the *Clinton Metal Shop* at 384 Miller Avenue. The *Grill* and the *Café* were located a few blocks from each other on opposite sides of Bromley Park while the metal shop was about a mile away, not far from where Johnston dead-ends into Liberty Street. The raids, conducted by five Police Detectives in conjunction with three Mercer County Detectives, resulted in four arrests. At the *Clinton Metal Shop* they found *an elaborate gambling set-up in a second-floor room* and they

confiscated a short-wave radio, telephone, horse race and lottery bets, scratch sheets and other gaming equipment and a telephone with the number TR6-1096. JULES ERDIE, then 46 years old, was arrested at the shop after the detectives used axes to gain entry. He was charged with possession of lottery slips. ERDIE rented the second floor from CARL SCHMELZ, the owner of the shop. ALBERT had been tipped-off by police the day before the raid and had warned JULES to stay away, a warning he chose to ignore. SCHMELZ was arrested and charged with the operation of a lottery and bookmaking.⁶³

At the Hamilton Township Police Station, CARL SCHMELZ gave a statement to DETECTIVE MICHAEL LAROSSA of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and Detectives JOHN MERRYWEATHER and TAYLOR of Hamilton Township. Apparently he built a small office, about 8 X 8 X 7.5 on the second floor. The Count's partner (ERDIE) approached SCHMELZ, wanting to rent the office for \$35.00 a month to run the *Ambrose Woodworking Company*. He agreed and accepted the first rent on 11 January 1953. SCHMELZ described the Count:

About 5'7" tall, weighs approximately 145 to 150 pounds, has a pencil moustache that runs across the middle of his upper lip, I'd say he's a man in the middle fifties, I'm not sure, his complexion is on the tan side, I never saw him without a hat, he never wore glasses, I never seen him with glasses, he was very clean shaven, I'd say his beard would be on the dark side, he was always in sporty clothes, sport shoes, sport slacks, sport coat, sport hat, whatever kind of hat he had, sometimes a tan jacket, different colored slacks, he had blue slacks, a gray sport coat and he had shoes to match, mostly a sport shirt, with no tie. He was gray on the temples. I don't know whether he was gray headed, dark headed or not. I'd say he was medium built. He's on the nervous side, too. The only time I ever saw him smoking was once he was smoking a cigar.

According to the SCHMELZ, the Count drove a light green 1952 Buick Riviera. He identified the Count and ERDIE from pictures. The Count's pictures included his 1938 arrest photo and his taxi license photo. The picture at right is from the 1926 Trenton Police Department file of Hack Licenses; named as JULIUS ERDIE, if this is the same person, he was about 20 years old in 1926. DETECTIVES JOHN MERRYWEATHER and BERRISFORD signed a complaint against the Count immediately. CAPTAIN BOOZ ordered his arrest and the Detectives proceeded to the Trenton Detective Bureau where they coordinated the arrest with CAPTAIN WELSH, who ordered SERGEANT FAGAN to arrest the Count at 328 Euclid Avenue. This the sergeant did and the Count was turned over to the Hamilton Township detectives. He was charged in Trenton this time for being a fugitive on bookmaking charges.⁶⁴ The Count was evidently expecting the arrest as MANNY KAPLAN, his attorney, had called the Hamilton Township Police Department to arrange for bail before the Count even showed up there. He was arraigned at 7:00 pm in front of MAGISTRATE DANIEL RAPPOPORT and the case was postponed to 4 June 1953. He was released under \$2000.00 bail, which was provided by JACK RUDNICK, attorney in fact for Manufacturers Casualty Insurance Company. He was charged by the Hamilton Township Police on 25 May 1953 with operating a gambling establishment at 384 Miller Avenue.⁶⁵ The following account appeared in the *Trenton Evening Times* on Tuesday, May 26th:



Bookmaking Count Faced By MATELENA

ALBERT J. MATELENA, 57, of 328 Euclid Avenue, known as "The Count," has been arrested by Hamilton Township police. They charge MATELENA was a partner in an alleged large-scale gambling establishment raided by township and county detectives last week.

MATELENA was released in \$2,000 cash bond last night to await a hearing on June 4 before Magistrate DANIEL RAPPOPORT. He is specifically charged with bookmaking and holding stakes on horses.

The township authorities contend MATELENA was a partner of JULES ERDIE, 53, of 453 Centre Street in gambling operations at the Clinton Metal Shop at 284 Miller Avenue. ERDIE was arrested in the shop last Tuesday by detectives who used an axe to batter down the door. Police said they found a short-wave radio and gambling paraphernalia in the second-floor sound-proof room.

Township police said ERDIE and MATELENA alternated in running the gambling business on a week-to-week basis.

MATELENA told the authorities that he is in the cab business. Trenton police say their records show he was arrested and fined \$1,500 in 1938 on a bookmaking charge.

MATELENA was arrested at his home yesterday by Hamilton Detective JOHN MERRYWEATHER and Acting Detective ERNEST BERRISFORD and City Detective Sergeant FRANK FAGAN.

The Miller Avenue metal shop was one of three places raided by the township and county detectives last week. The plainclothes officers also entered the Paddock Café at Nottingham Way and East State Street and the Greenwood Grill at Greenwood and Johnson Avenues and arrested a bartender in each place on a charge of taking horse bets.

The correct address of the metal shop is unclear as the *Times* states 284 while court records give 384 Miller Avenue. Not far from the intersection with Newkirk Avenue, currently, there is no 284 as Miller Avenue changes names to Edmund Street at Newkirk and the lowest-numbered block of Miller is the 300 block. The 200 block of Edmund has no 284 but there are several possibilities now appearing as empty lots in the first block of Edmund off Newkirk, most notably the lots on the alley behind 257 Newkirk Avenue. The house at 384 Miller appears to be a post-WW II brick clad bungalow with no indications that there ever was any type of business at the address.

KAPLAN had the case delayed to 9 June. The Count was indicted on the bookmaking and keeping a gambling resort charges on 11 August 1953 in the Criminal Law Division of the Mercer County Court for which he was arraigned on the 1st of September, entering a plea of not guilty.^{66 67}

The Count hired BERTRAM LEFKOWITZ, of 177 South Broad Street, to represent him. LEFKOWITZ served the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office on 19 September 1953 with a Notice of his intention to file a motion the following week with the Superior Court

to obtain access to all records from the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office regarding the case against him, including *papers or documents, or written statements, allegedly made by the defendant* which may be introduced as evidence. At the same time a *Notice of Motion to Compel* MARIO VOLPE, Mercer County Prosecutor, to answer the *Bill of Particulars* was filed. This *Bill* asked VOLPE to supply the answers to fourteen questions that would reveal the specific dates and the races the Count committed the alleged infractions, the names and addresses of any witnesses, the specifics of the rental agreement between ALBERT and the owner of the property, as well as a full description of any gambling paraphernalia found on ALBERT at the time of his arrest. While a copy of this *Bill* has been obtained; the answers to the questions, if the Motion was granted, have not been located by the author.

After a lengthy delay of two years, attributed to the postponements obtained by LEFKOWITZ, the case went to trial on Monday, the 16th of May, 1955. One such postponement was obtained on the 25th of April when the attorney stated that the Count had suffered a back injury which prevented his appearance.⁶⁸ At the same trial, the charges against CARL SCHMELZ, stemming from the raid, were also heard. SCHMELZ had allegedly identified the Count in his statement to city and county authorities on 19 May 1953 but refused to positively identify ALBERT as the operator of the bookie joint at the Hamilton Township Police Court hearing on 9 June 1953 claiming that he had only admitted that the photographs he was shown by the police resembled the Count but not-so-far as to allow him to positively identify him. The judge in that case, CHARLES P. HUTCHINSON, felt that SCHMELZ changed his testimony to protect *higher ups* in the bookmaking ring. HUTCHINSON wanted to make an example of SCHMELZ:

[if] the big boys of gambling operations are to be punished they cannot and must not be shielded by persons who are caught in the police net. Those who persist in covering up or taking the rap for those who should be punished must themselves be punished, so that the administration of criminal law can effectively continue.

SCHMELZ was found guilty of *false swearing* on 29 January 1954 and was sentenced to a maximum of three years in state prison and fined \$1,500.⁶⁹ He was serving time in the State prison when he appeared at the May 16th trial. JULES ERDIE had pleaded no contest to the charges against him and had served his sentence in state prison and had already been released.

On the second day of the trial, Mercer county ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR FRANK H. LAWTON presented his theory that ALBERT and JULES alternated weekly in the betting operation since June of 1951.⁷⁰

DETECTIVE MERRYWEATHER, by this time retired, provided testimony on the third day that was quite damaging, to the prosecution. He could not offer any reason why the physical evidence confiscated during the raid was any different than items one would expect to find in any business establishment; he was forced to recant his testimony that written data allegedly identifying horse races, horse names, bets and gamblers, found at the shop was *apparently in code known only to gamblers* as having had no basis in fact; that none of the more than one hundred callers to the shop during the raid had asked for *the Count* in order to place a bet; and that ALBERT'S presence at the shop had not been established at any time during the raid.⁷¹

The State rested its case on the 24th of May after items seized during the raid

were admitted into evidence over the objections of defense counsel that none of the evidence had been shown to have been owned, bought or controlled by ALBERT and that the State had not proved that SCHMELZ had any knowledge of the articles. Separate motions for a directed verdict of acquittal were immediately filed as counsels, FRANK S. KATZENBACH, III for SCHMELZ and LEFKOWITZ for the Count, had different reasons for seeking acquittal.⁷²

On Wednesday the 25th, JUDGE CLIFTON C. BENNETT denied both *Motions for Acquittal*. The defense rested without placing ALBERT on the stand. In his summation, LEFKOWITZ called for an acquittal as the evidence was the weakest he had seen in 24 years of practicing law; there was nothing to link ALBERT to any of the seized items or to the operation of any business at the shop at the time of the raid. LAWTON countered with the supposition that the State had produced enough evidence to *prove MATELENA guilty as charged* as witnesses had placed him at the shop the week before the raid and that the seized evidence was necessary to conduct such an operation. JUDGE BENNETT dismissed the charges against SCHMELZ as possessing knowledge of a gambling establishment is not enough to convict and the State had failed to tie the defendant directly to the illegal operation. He was returned to prison to finish his sentence for false swearing which is odd in that this charge originated with his given description of the Count and his later refusal to identify the Count *as the operating of the bookmaking establishment* – two wholly different things.⁷³ Considering the verdict of the jury in ALBERT'S case, apparently the Court disposed of the SCHMELZ case first.

The jury deliberated for seven hours on the 25th before agreeing with LEFKOWITZ when they acquitted the Count because the Prosecutor had failed to prove anything other than a casual connection between him and the premises that had been raided; proving that he had been there the week before the raid did not prove any involvement with bookmaking. The resulting finding was of *not guilty of three bookmaking charges*.⁷⁴ If this finding had been entered before that of the SCHMELZ case, the false swearing charge may not have been sustainable as his refusal to identify the Count as the bookmaker was sustained by the Count's acquittal. It is presumed the charges of being a fugitive on bookmaking charges filed in the city of Trenton were dismissed.

That ALBERT continued to be involved with the Cosa Nostra was related to the author by a cousin who stated that he had accompanied the New Jersey delegation to a well-known meeting of the heads of several crime families in New York in the late 1950s. That meeting, called the *Apalachin Conference*, was held on 14 November 1957 at the home of JOSEPH "JOE THE BARBER" BARBARA, about 200 miles northwest of New York City. Attended by over a hundred *Mafiosi*, the main purpose of the meeting was to divide up the late ALBERT ANASTASIA'S crime holdings; he had been gunned down on 25 October while getting a shave at Manhattan's Park Sheraton Hotel. A poorly conducted raid by local police saw the attendees fleeing the 53 acre BARBARA compound through fields with over sixty arrests, most of who were soon released without charge. Both representatives in attendance from the New Jersey family, under FILIPPO "PHIL" AMARI since BADAMI'S 1955 murder, was represented by second-in-command *underboss* FRANK MAJURI and third-in-command *caporegime* LOUIS "FAT LOU" LAROSSA and both were among those arrested. AMARI stepped down the following month with the family being headed by NICK DELMORE until 1964, and thereafter by his nephew SIMONE RIZZO "SAM THE PLUMBER" DECAVALCANTE from Lawrenceville. The FBI's *Goodfella Tapes* that

confirmed the structure of the Italian organized crime syndicate were obtained from the illegal bugging of SAM THE PLUMBER'S phone lines from 1961 to 1965. One of SAM's alleged business fronts was the Chambersburg Dairy at 276 Home Avenue. It is known that ALBERT associated with him.⁷⁵ In 1969 SAM, who was also known as *The Count*, and 54 associates were arrested for gambling. Earning an estimated \$20 million yearly, SAM was convicted of extortion and conspiracy and imprisoned until 1976; he retired to Florida, where the family maintained operations as well, in 1980. He died in 1997 and is buried in *Greenwood Cemetery* in Trenton.

ALBERT was continually troubled with his heart problems, which were later complicated by diabetes. This, coupled with arthritis, left him unable to work for extended periods of time. In the mid- to late-1950s it became apparent the Count had been intimately involved with a member of the RISALDI family for many years and, in fact, spent a large amount of time with that family of whom a number of younger members called him *UNCLE AL*. This caused a significant rupture with his daughters, especially ALBERTA who severely upbraided him at the Euclid Avenue house and never forgave him for being unfaithful.

On 19 May 1956, ALBERT began work as a cashier for PETER L. TONTI, owner of Pete's Steak House at 1458 Chambers Street, near Cedar Lane, in the Chambersburg section of town. By August 1958 he was assistant manager there where he made \$2600.00 that year. Around 1960 he worked as an accountant for Aquilina Brothers, a concrete company on Stacy Avenue in Mercerville. In actuality he may have paid these businesses to place him on their payroll so as to be able to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits. ALBERT'S health problems increased and he stopped working on 23 September 1960.⁷⁶ He may have also stopped to help with the care of his seriously ill wife.

Early in 1960, exploratory surgery was done on DOROTHY and it was discovered that she had diffuse lung cancer. Her health was so compromised that the large incision required to remove the tumors never healed. DOROTHY and ALBERT moved in with their daughter MARIE at 210 Elmore Avenue in the spring of 1960. For the last six months of her life DOROTHY did not want to sleep and she would rather stay up talking with someone, often her daughter MARIE, all night long.⁷⁷ On 12 November 1960, DOROTHY passed away from lung cancer. Services were conducted under the auspices of Greenwood Avenue Methodist Church at 1201 Greenwood Avenue, corner at Olden Avenue (now African United Methodist Church). She was buried on 15 November 1960 in section 15B, lot 48 at *Saint Mary's Cemetery* in Trenton.

After his wife's death, ALBERT sold the house on Euclid Avenue to STANLEY McDOWELL for \$1.00, subject to the Roma Savings and Loan mortgage, which was paid off in November. The 1957 mortgage between ALBERT and STANLEY was not part of this deed and that mortgage was paid off on 30 October 1962.⁷⁸ It has been said that he had to sell the house as he could no longer afford the mortgage payments and cover the medical bills of his wife's last year.⁷⁹ He collected disability from the government after this. He lived with his daughter MARIE until the late 1970s. Evidently he was less-than-appreciative of his daughter's efforts to accommodate him over the years and was asked to leave. He moved to Donnelly Convalescent Home in Trenton until 8 October 1981, when he passed away at 11:50 AM of a heart attack. He was buried in *Saint Mary's Cemetery* on 10 October 1981. Over the years it has been said that any money

the Count had ended up with the RISALDI family.

ALBERT posthumously received the Purple Heart on 15 April 2000 from United States PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON for wounds received on 17 October 1918 during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in the First World War through the diligence of the author. He was inducted into the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in October 2009.

Issue:

DOROTHY MATELENA: Her birth announcement states that DR. GEORGE WILLIAMS and MRS. CHARLES OTIS were in attendance. She was baptized at Saint Mary's Cathedral on 5 October 1924. Sponsors were JOHN and JOSEPHINE MATELENA. In this record her date of birth is given as 12 June 1924. Living on Spuce Street, she attended Columbus Elementary School now at 643 Indiana Avenue. Her entry into Junior High corresponded with the family's move to Cavell Street so she attended Trenton Junior 1 at 800 Princeton Avenue near Southard Street; she graduated from Trenton Central High School in 1942. She married JOHN 'JACK' NABINGER (born c1922), son of JOHN and BERTHA NABINGER, on 22 October 1949.⁸⁰ He had graduated from Junior 4 in 1937 and Trenton High School in 1940. They lived in an apartment in or near the 600 block of South Broad Street at first. While here DOROTHY's sister ALBERTA recuperated from the injuries she got in a head-on car collision on 8 December 1949. ALBERTA's husband VALENTINE was the driver. They moved to Barnett Drive in Lawrenceville, NJ. JACK died 30 September 2015 and was buried in *Saint Mary's Cemetery*, Trenton. DOROTHY died at Capital Health in Pennington, NJ on 21 June 2019 and was buried next to her husband.



- 1) JEFFREY JOHN NABINGER: born 1 March 1954. Lawrenceville, NJ. Married ZHANNA VENGLINSKAYA on 19 November 2005 in Lawrenceville.⁸¹
 - a) JACQUELINE ELIZABETH NABINGER: born 1 March 2004 (adopted)
 - b) GENEVIEVE ELIZABETH NABINGER: born 10 November 2010
- 2) STACY JOHN NABINGER: born 1960, married 10 September 1988 JANET ANTINORO in Trenton.⁸² Live in Washington Crossing, PA
 - a) STACY JOHN NABINGER, JUNIOR: born August 1989

MARIE MATELENA: notice of her birth can be found on page 21 of the Trenton Evening Times of 15 April: *Mother and baby are doing nicely under the care of DR. W.J. HARMAN and MRS. ALLEN MCBRIDE*. She was baptized at Saint Mary's Cathedral on 12 September 1926. Sponsors were JOHN and JOSEPHINE MATELENA. She attended Columbus Elementary School and either the Ringold Street or Jefferson Elementary School and Trenton Junior High Number 1 and she graduated from Trenton Central High School in 1944. She married WILLIAM NABINGER (born 22 May 1923), brother of JOHN, in Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland in late 1947. A marriage license was issued for the couple in Trenton in 1947.⁸³ WILLIAM graduated from Junior 4 in 1939 and Trenton High



in 1942. They lived in Trenton, NJ, first on Genesee Street, then at 210 Elmore Avenue. WILLIAM had worked as an ironworker, then in the sales department of Charles Chips, and finally retired from the NJ State Lottery Commission, while MARIE worked for ShopRite Supermarkets for many years. WILLIAM died at home on 22 January 2002. The funeral was conducted by Saul Colonial Funeral Home in Hamilton Square and he was interred in *Greenwood Cemetery* in Trenton. MARIE died at home on 7 June 2003 after a long illness and was interred next to her husband. Their children are:

- 1) WILLIAM NABINGER: "BILLY" born 12 May 1948 (Trenton, NJ), married 3 June 1972 LINDA ___, Hamilton Square, NJ.
 - A) WILLIAM C. NABINGER
 - B) LAURIE NABINGER: married BRAD GRIBIN.
 - I) LOGAN ROBERT GRIBIN
- 2) LINDA R. NABINGER: born 29 July 1949 (Trenton, NJ); license to marry (1) DREW FILLO issued in June 1967⁸⁴; divorced. She married (2) FRANK DIGIORGIO, Trenton, NJ. They divorced and Linda, with her daughter RENEE, moved back to her mother's home at 210 Elmore Avenue, in 2003 to take care of MARIE during her illness which is reminiscent of MARIE doing the same thing with her own mother. FRANK DIGIORGIO died 11 December 2018.
 - A) RENEE FILLO
 - B) DAWN DIGIORGIO; married ROBERT DWAYNE LUCKY; 3 children, including:
 1. ROBERT DWAYNE LUCKY, JUNIOR
 - C) CRYSTAL DIGIORGIO; married ___ MONTANEZ; married; 3 children, including:
 - A) ADRIANNA MONTANEZ
- 3) PATRICIA A. NABINGER: "Patty" born 25 February 1952 (Trenton, NJ), married (1) on 30 December 1972 MICHAEL BOWERS, no issue, divorced. License issued in February 1977 to marry (2) DAVID M. DULLEA, divorced;⁸⁵ issue:
 - A) BRIAN DULLEA
- 4) JOHN E. NABINGER: born 26 June 1963 (Trenton, NJ), married DANIELLE EHRLICH, 24 October 1992, Lawrence Township, Mercer County, NJ.⁸⁶ They live in Atlanta, Ga.
 - A) SIDNEY NABINGER: born 25 January 2004, Atlanta, GA.
 - B) COLE WILLIAM NABINGER: born 1 October 2006, Atlanta, GA

ALBERTA JEAN MATELENA: baptized 3 March 1929 at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Trenton. Sponsors were JOHN and JOSEPHINE MATELENA. Her father "christened" her with his own pet name: "*Mutchie*," its origins unknown however its durability was as it stayed with her through her life.

She made her First Holy Communion at the cathedral on 28 May 1938 and received her Confirmation there as well, in 1941. She attended Columbus Elementary School, then at 1200 Brunswick Avenue and now at 643 Indiana Avenue (though it is the same building) until the 4th grade when the family moved from Spruce Street to Cavell Street, then probably transferred to Jefferson Elementary at 411 Brunswick Avenue as explained earlier. Moving on to Junior High School, she attended both Trenton Junior High School 1, on Princeton Avenue at Southard Street, and the second Junior 2 which opened in 1942 behind the High School after the family moved to Euclid Avenue that same year. ALBERTA was thirteen years old and starting the 8th grade. She was in Junior 2's second graduating class of 224; the commencement exercises were

held in the school auditorium on 14 June 1944.⁸⁷

She attended Trenton Central High School where she was a cheerleader. In high school she was known as "*Peaches*." She first met VALENTINE SMITH in 1946. At that time, it was improper for a couple to go on a date alone. His friend, JOHN NABINGER, was dating ALBERTA's sister DOROTHY and JOHN asked VALENTINE to go along as a chaperone and MARIE's date with him and DOROTHY. They actually met while VALENTINE and JOHN were waiting in the Euclid Avenue parlor and ALBERTA came up from the basement, soaking wet, after having washed the family's dog. ALBERTA served as a bridesmaid at the wedding of her cousin FRANK IERO to LILLIAN STANKIEWICZ in December 1946 at Holy Cross Church. THERESA LAUTERIO, another cousin was also one of the bridesmaids who were dressed in *acqua net* gowns with a headdress of a coronet and a classical bouquet of pink roses. A dinner at the Clio Club (which became Cedar Gardens) followed the ceremony and a later reception was held at the church auditorium.⁸⁸ ALBERTA was apparently got good grades as she was listed as being in the top one-fifth of her class a few months before graduating from Trenton Central High School in June 1947. She was on the Black Team Cheer Leading squad for the 13th Annual Girls' Sport Nite in the spring of 1947.⁸⁹

As a child and young adult she enjoyed playing the piano and was quite good by some accounts. She had an outgoing personality and was adept at making many friends. She would accompany her grandmother MARIA to Saint Mary's Cathedral almost every Sunday, she maintained fast friendships with her many aunts, uncles and cousins over the years. Her UNCLE WILSON and AUNT OLIVE SOUTHARD and their daughter CAROL all had lifelong relationships with her as did her UNCLE JOHN and AUNT JOSEPHINE MATELENA and their daughter GLADYS GROPP. An engagement announcement and photograph to marry V.W. SMITH was published 1 February 1948.⁹⁰ She married VALENTINE SMITH on 19 June 1948. Their story is continued by their personal biographical section.

¹ Birth Registration of UMBERTO MADDALENA and Military Registration Card of ALBERT MATELENA, No. 146, 29-3-33A, 5 June 1917; Federal Archives and Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Ave., East Point, Ga. 30344

² JEFF NABINGER, e-mail to author, 20 December 1999.

³ Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory, 1923, pp.114, 619; 1924 p.701; Fitzgerald Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.

⁴ Records of Veteran's Administration, Bayonne, NJ of ALBERT MATELENA.

⁵ Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory, 1925, p.648; Fitzgerald Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.

⁶ "Birth Announcements" *Trenton Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 31 August 1924, part 2, page 3, column 5.

⁷ Records of Veteran's Administration, Bayonne, NJ of ALBERT MATELENA.

⁸ Conversations with WILLIAM Smith, Jan. 1986, Glendale, CA; MARIE NABINGER, August 1986, Trenton, NJ; and DOROTHY NABINGER, November 1997, Trenton, NJ

⁹ Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory, 1926, p.667; 1927, p.658; 1928, p.670; 1929, p.689; 1930, p.682; 1931, p.564; 1932, p.537; 1933, p.524; 1934, p.509; 1935, p.502; 1936, p.493; Fitzgerald Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.

- ¹⁰ Tax Assessor's Department, City of Trenton, number 33, 851 Spruce Street, 16 March 1936; at Trenton Public Library, Academy St., Trenton, NJ.
- ¹¹ Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory, 1926, p.667; 1927, p.658; 1928, p.670; 1929, p.689; 1930, p.682; 1931, p.564; 1932, p.537; 1933, p.524; 1934, p.509; 1935, p.502; 1936, p.493; Fitzgerald Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.
- ¹² 1930 U.S. Census (Free Schedule) Mercer County, N.J., City of Trenton, 8th Ward, 2 April 1930, sheet 2A, Enumeration District 11-32, dwelling 24, families 24 - 26, lines 17-30.
- ¹³ "Two Surrender to Police on \$525 Holdup Charge," *Trenton Evening Times*, 30 April 1931, part 1, page 1, column 1.
- ¹⁴ "Crime Figures have Escaped Clutch of Law By Loopholes," *Trenton Evening Times*, 21 December 1931, part 1, page 1, column 2 and page 20, column 4.
- ¹⁵ *Trenton Evening Times*, 27 July 1933, page 18, column 3.
- ¹⁶ *Trenton Evening Times*, 29 July 1933, page 10, column 1.
- ¹⁷ *Trenton Evening Times*, 2 August 1933, page 14, column 1.
- ¹⁸ *Trenton Evening Times*, 16 August 1933, page 18, column 1.
- ¹⁹ *Trenton Evening Times*, 28 October 1933, page 15, column 2 and 30 October 1933, page 4, column 2.=
- ²⁰ *Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 4 September 1932, part 1, page 4, column 7.
- ²¹ "Marathon Entertainer," *Trenton Evening Times*, 7 May 1932, page 8, column 5.
- ²² *Trenton Evening Times*, 8 November 1933, page 20, column 4.
- ²³ *Trenton Evening Times*, 10 November 1933, page 16, column 1.
- ²⁴ *Trenton Evening Times*, 27 December 1933, page 12, column 7.
- ²⁵ MARIE NABINGER, Trenton, NJ, conversation with author on 23 November 1997.
- ²⁶ NJ Bell Telephone Directory, Summer 1933, p.39; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.
- ²⁷ Marie Nabinger, telephone conversation with author, 19 October 1985 (and) Dorothy Nabinger, telephone conversation with author, 9 March 1986.
- ²⁸ Mercer County Lis Pendens, vol.14, page 194, 28 June 1937; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.
- ²⁹ Information on the residences obtained through court records of a lawsuit filed by DOROTHY MATELENA against ANDREW J. DUCH, Mayor of Trenton, et. al.; Hughes Justice Complex, CN 971, Trenton, NJ
- ³⁰ Tax Assessment Document, City of Trenton, 22 Cavell St.; at Trenton Public Library, Academy St., Trenton, NJ.
- ³¹ ERIK N. PYONTEK, When the World was Young Book One of Cavell Avenue Memoirs (Twining Press, Minneapolis, MN; 2015) pp. 89 – 91.
- ³² *Trenton Evening Times*, 4 April 1937
- ³³ Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory, 1938, p.506; Fitzgerald Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.
- ³⁴ Application for Social Security Number 155-10-8794 and 146-26-4083; ALBERT JOSEPH MATELENA and JOSEPH ALBERT MATELENA; Social Security Administration, Central Records, Baltimore, MD 21201
- ³⁵ Conversations with WILLIAM SMITH, Jan. 1986, Glendale, Ca.; MARIE NABINGER, August 1986, Trenton, NJ; and DOROTHY NABINGER, November 1997, Trenton, NJ
- ³⁶ JOHN MATELENA, interviewed by AILEEN DOREMUS, Activity director, Lawrenceville Nursing Home; reported to author in a letter dated 15 March 1995.
- ³⁷ All of the information about the Gem Social Club was obtained from the following sources:

Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser, 11 December 1938, page 1, column 5; *Trenton Evening Times*, 12 December 1938, page 1, column 2; 13 December 1938, page 1, column 1; 16 December 1938, page 1, column 1; 19 December 1938, page 1, column 1; 16 January 1939, page 1, column 7; 17 January 1939, page 1, column 7; 18 January 1939, page 1, column 3; 27 January 1939, page 1, column 6; and *Trenton State Gazette* 13 December 1938, page 1, column 2; 14 December 1938, page 1, column 6; 17 December 1938, page 5, column 1; 20 December 1938, page 4, column 1; 17 January 1939, page 1, column 1; 18 January 1939, page 1, column 1; 19 January 1939, page 2, column 3; 28 January 1939, page 1, column 4.

- ³⁸ JEFF NABINGER (see note 2).
- ³⁹ "Trentonian Held for Horse-Racing Pool," *Trenton Evening Times*, 1 May 1934, page 1, column 6 and "Trentonian Is Nabbed For Horse Race Betting," 2 May 1934, page 9, column 7; and Annual Report, [Trenton] Bureau of Police, 1932, "Classification of Officers," pp. 4 – 5, available at: http://trentonpdhistory.org/Annual_Reports/1932/.
- ⁴⁰ Arrest Record No. 3928, City of Trenton, NJ, Bureau of Police.
- ⁴¹ Jeff Nabinger, conversation with author, 23 April 2019.
- ⁴² *Trenton Evening Times*, 12 January 1929, p 1; 3 February, p 1; and 23 April 1929, p 4
- ⁴³ *Trenton Evening Times*, 13 October 1933, p 1
- ⁴⁴ *Trenton Evening Times*, 8 January 1935, pp. 1, 11
- ⁴⁵ JEFF NABINGER (see note 2).
- ⁴⁶ Arrest Record No. 3928, City of Trenton, NJ, Bureau of Police.
- ⁴⁷ *Trenton Evening Times*, 19 January 1939, p 5
- ⁴⁸ JOHN NABINGER, conversation with author, December 1997, Lawrenceville, NJ.
- ⁴⁹ 1940 U.S. Census, Mercer County, New Jersey, Trenton, 7th Ward, 4 April 1940, ED 27-50, sheet 61A, lines 33-36 and 8 April 1940, ED 27-50, sheet 5B, lines 41-42.
- ⁵⁰ U.S. Selective Service System, *Selective Service Registration Cards, World War II: Fourth Registration*. 1942. National Archives and Records Administration.
- ⁵¹ Erik Pyontek (son of Gail Woods), contact with author via FaceBook, 22 – 27 October 2015
- ⁵² Mercer County Deeds, vol.844, p.16, dated and recorded 19 August 1942; and Mercer County Mortgages, vol.659, p.221, dated and recorded 19 Aug 1942; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.
- ⁵³ Mercer County Mortgages, vol.816, p.331, 3 January 1949; vol.979, p.252, 30 October 1953; vol.1026, p.84, 1 February 1955; vol.1045, p.398, 5 August 1955; vol.1127, p.87, 4 October 1957; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.
- ⁵⁴ "Denies' Phone Used In Bets, Nurse Sues To Get It Back," *Trenton Evening Times*, 28 February 1947, p 10, column 3.
- ⁵⁵ "Decision Reserved On Plea To Restore Matelena Phone; Bookmaking Charge Denied," *Trenton Evening Times*, 2 April 1947, p 1, column 5.
- ⁵⁶ "Felled, Robbed By Two Thugs," *Trenton Evening Times*, 24 March 1947, p 1, column 4.
- ⁵⁷ Fitzgerald's Trenton and Mercer County Directory, 1950, p.558; Fitzgerald Directory Company, 14 N. Warren St., Trenton, NJ; available at Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.
- ⁵⁸ Application for Social Security Number 155-10-8794 and 146-26-4083 (See note 32)
- ⁵⁹ Taxi license A-1249, ALBERT MATELENA, Hamilton Township, NJ, 21 April 1952.
- ⁶⁰ Taxi license A-1260, name blocked out, Hamilton Township, NJ, 19 June 1952.
- ⁶¹ *Trenton Evening Times*, 25 May 1952
- ⁶² The State of New Jersey versus ALBERT J. MATELENA, Defendant, Indictment for Bookmaking and Keeping a Gambling Resort, No. 90-52, September Term, 1952. The author is indebted to Geoffrey Rein of the Mercer Vicinage Records Department for locating the court record of this case in March 2004, thus ending a search that began in 1997.

⁶³ "Police Wield Axe In Raid On Hamilton Bookie Joints," *Trenton Evening Times*, 20 May 1953; page 13, column 5.

⁶⁴ State Bureau of Investigation No. 121698, Division of State Police, Department of Law and Public Safety, State of NJ.

⁶⁵ Hamilton Township Police Department, Criminal case 53-21117, ALBERT MATELENA.

⁶⁶ The State of New Jersey versus ALBERT J. MATELENA, Defendant, Indictment for Bookmaking and Keeping a Gambling Resort, No. 90, September Term, 1952, May 1953 Stated Session.

⁶⁷ 2001 NEW JERSEY STATUTES under which ALBERT MATELENA was charged:

2C:37-2. Promoting Gambling. (Replaced 2A:112-113 in 1979)

a. Promoting Gambling Defined. A person is guilty of promoting gambling when he knowingly:

- (1) Accepts or receives money or other property, pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby he participates or will participate in the proceeds of gambling activity; or
- (2) Engages in conduct, which materially aids any form of gambling activity. Such conduct includes but is not limited to conduct directed toward the creation or establishment of the particular game, contest, scheme, device or activity involved, toward the acquisition or maintenance of premises, paraphernalia, equipment or apparatus therefor, toward the solicitation or inducement of persons to participate therein, toward the actual conduct of the playing phases thereof, toward the arrangement of any of its financial or recording phases, or toward any other phase of its operation.

b. Grading. A person who violates the provisions of subsection a. by:

- (1) Engaging in bookmaking to the extent he receives or accepts in any one day more than five bets totaling more than \$1,000.00; or
- (2) Receiving, in connection with a lottery or policy scheme or enterprise (a) money or written records from a person other than a player whose chances or plays are represented by such money or records, or (b) more than \$100.00 in any one day of money played in such scheme or enterprise, is guilty of a crime of the third degree and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2C:43-3 shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$35,000.00 and any other appropriate disposition authorized by N.J.S.2C:43-2 b.

A person who violates the provisions of subsection a. by engaging in bookmaking to the extent he receives or accepts three or more bets in any two-week period is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2C:43-3 shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$25,000.00 and any other appropriate disposition authorized by N.J.S.2C:43-2b. Otherwise, promoting gambling is a disorderly persons offense and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2C:43-3 shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 and any other appropriate disposition authorized by N.J.S.2C:43-2b.

c. It is a defense to a prosecution under subsection a. that the person participated only as a player. It shall be the burden of the defendant to prove by clear and convincing evidence his status as such player.

Amended 1979, c.178, s.69; 1997, c.181, s.9.

⁶⁸ "New Respite To Matalena," *Trenton Evening Times*, 26 April 1955, p 20, c 4

⁶⁹ *Trenton Sunday Times Advertiser*, 31 January 1954, p 1 and *Trenton Evening Times*, 21 May 1954, p 1

⁷⁰ "4 Women And 10 Men Trying Matelena Case," *Trenton Evening Times*; 17 May 1955; page 1, col 6.

⁷¹ "Lively Quiz In Matelena Bookie Case," *Trenton Evening Times*; 19 May 1955; page 1, column 7.

⁷² "Court Studies Acquittal Plea In Bookie Case," *Trenton Evening Times*; 24 May 1955; page 1, col 3.

⁷³ "Jurors Hear No Evidence By Matelena. Defendant Fails To Take Witness Stand In Bookie Case," *Trenton Evening Times*; 25 May 1955; page 1, column 5.

⁷⁴ "Jury Clears Matelena in Bookie Case," *Trenton Evening Times*; 26 May 1955; page 1, column 2.

⁷⁵ JEFF NABINGER, e-mail to author, 17 December 1999.

⁷⁶ Records of Veteran's Administration, Bayonne, NJ of ALBERT MATELENA.

⁷⁷ MARIE NABINGER (see note 25)

⁷⁸ Mercer County Deeds, vol.1598, p.71, 30 October 1961 and Mercer County Mortgages, vol.1127, p.87, 4 October 1957; Mercer County Court House, Trenton, NJ.

⁷⁹ MARIE NABINGER (see note 25)

⁸⁰ Marriage License number 36496 (1949), Matelena, Dorothy E., Mercer County, New Jersey.

⁸¹ New Jersey Marriage License Index (2005), Nabinger, Jeffrey John,.

⁸² Marriage License number 39612 (1988), Nabinger, Stacy E., Mercer County, New Jersey.

⁸³ New Jersey Marriage License Index (1947), Matelena, Marie R.

⁸⁴ New Jersey Marriage License Index, license 24479 (1967), Nabinger, Linda R., Mercer County, New Jersey.

⁸⁵ New Jersey Marriage License Index, licenses 56331 (1972) and 3796 (1977), Nabinger, Patricia A., New Jersey.

⁸⁶ New Jersey Marriage License Index, license 46474 (1992), Nabinger, John E., Mercer County, New Jersey.

⁸⁷ "224 To Graduate From Junior Two," *Trenton Evening Times*, 13 June 1944, p 11, column 4.

⁸⁸ "Becomes Bride at Church Wedding," *Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 29 December 1946, part 3, page 2, column 3.

⁸⁹ The 13th Annual Program, Girls' Sports Nite, Trenton Central High School, p. 14

⁹⁰ *Sunday Times-Advertiser*, 1 February 1948, part 3, page 3, column 5.